
Further records of Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola* (Hb.) (Lep.: Arctiidae) in North Wales

I read with interest the note by Adrian Wander in the last issue of this journal (*Ent. Rec.* **112**: 251) reporting *Eilema caniola* on Anglesey in August 2000. Whilst operating mercury vapour light traps in Snowdonia, at Plas Tan Y Bwlch, Maentwrog (Gwynedd) I, too, was surprised to record *caniola* on 28 July 1997 and 21 July 1999. This species would appear to have a wider distribution north and westward than is currently documented.

During a visit to southern Ireland in 1986 I recorded *E. caniola* at Baltimore Bay, near Skibbereen (see *Ent. Rec.* **99**: 45).— DAVID C. G. BROWN, Jacksons Lawn, Charlecote, nr. Warwick, CV35 9EW.

An exceptionally early Common Quaker *Orthosia cerasi* (Fabr.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) from Devon

I was surprised to see what appeared to be a noctuid moth outside my kitchen window on 5 December 2000. I quickly boxed it and found it to be a somewhat worn female of the above species. Perhaps the recent run of unseasonably mild temperatures were responsible for its emergence, almost three months earlier than usual.— ROBERT BOGUE, 2 Rose Cottages, Lydford, Devon EX20 4AW. (E-mail: robbogue@aol.com)

A December record of the Common Quaker *Orthosia cerasi* (Fabr.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in West Yorkshire

On checking my back garden Robinson trap here at Elland (OS grid reference SE 112221; VC 63 – West Yorkshire), on the morning of 3 December 2000, I found a moth amongst the egg cartons which I at first glance took to be a Yellow-line Quaker *Agrochola macilenta* (Hb.) On closer inspection, however, realised that it in fact appeared to be a Common Quaker *Orthosia cerasi*.

Since none of the available literature seemed to suggest that this species was ever recorded before February I began to question my abilities. After looking through “*Skinner*” for possible alternatives I decided to ask my friend Ian Kimber for his opinion. Ian and I both rechecked any possible alternatives and came to the conclusion it was indeed a very early record of Common Quaker.

As a safeguard, I decided to send the specimen to Mr H. Beaumont, one of the Yorkshire Lepidoptera recorders, for confirmation and to check for any other early records of *O. cerasi*. Mr Beaumont replied two days later that indeed the specimen was *O. cerasi* and was the only known record for this species in early winter in Yorkshire. The only other record I have been able to discover of a very early emergence of Common Quaker is of one taken at Ipswich golf course on 25 November 1999 by Mr N. Sherman. It would be interesting to discover any further records of very early emergence of spring